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## REGULATION ASSIGNMENT CONTROL SHEET

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ANALYST  
ASSIGNED: AXT

TYPE OF ACTION: NPP

TITLE: PARENTAL ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCE CENTERS  
PROGRAM

RECEIVED: 2/6/2002

DATE ASSIGNED: 2/6/2002

DATE DUE: 2/8/2002

ANALYST SIGNATURE: Kanner Axt

COMPLETION DATE: 2/7/02

FINAL APPROVAL: Joseph Schubar

DATE: Feb 7, 2002

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1810-0578

Not approved

Approved for publication once the  
collection is finalized for OMB  
submission. Anticipated date by Mon/Tues-  
2/11.

## Rudolph, Kim

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**From:** Axt, Kathy  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 14, 2002 10:59 AM  
**To:** Cunningham, Marlene  
**Cc:** Rudolph, Kim  
**Subject:** FW: Parental Assistance and Resource Centers Program - notice of proposed priority, selection criteria and eligibility requirements

**Importance:** High

My office cannot approve this for publication until the information collection is ready to go to OMB. I only have pieces of the collection and need to receive the complete package again. Once I get the entire collection and it is fine-tuned, the notice can go to OMB.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Cunningham, Marlene  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 14, 2002 9:58 AM  
**To:** Scott, Robert; Rieman, Heather; Wade, Maria; Koeppel, Dennis; Axt, Kathy; Griffin, Charlesetta  
**Cc:** Jaso, Eric; Rosenfelt, Phil; Greenfield, Daisy; Wooten, William; Stallings, Guinevere; Cohen, Larry; Depew, Ken; Aserkoff, Lisa  
**Subject:** Parental Assistance and Resource Centers Program - notice of proposed priority, selection criteria and eligibility requirements  
**Importance:** High

The above notice was withdrawn from departmental clearance on February 8th. OESE has requested DRS but the notice in departmental clearance again. The program office would like to have this notice published ASAP in the Federal Register; therefore, I'm requesting a short turnaround. If possible, please e-mail your comments



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or concurrence by cob, Tuesday, February 19th. A copy of the notice is attached.

If you have any questions, please call me at 401-6333.

FEBRUARY 14,, 2002

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

(CFDA No.: 84.310A)

Parental Assistance and Resource Centers Program

AGENCY: Department of Education

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Priority, Selection Criteria, and Eligibility Requirements

SUMMARY: Subpart 16 of Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110), authorizes the Secretary of Education to award grants to nonprofit organizations (including statewide nonprofit organizations), and to consortia of nonprofit organizations and local educational agencies (LEAs), to establish school-based and school-linked Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs). (This legislation is available on the Department's website at <http://www.ed.gov> under the heading "President's and Secretary's Priorities".) The purposes of the program are (1) to assist grantees in implementing successful and effective parental involvement policies, programs, and activities that lead to improvements in student academic achievement; (2) to strengthen partnerships among parents (including parents of children from birth through age five), teachers, principals, administrators, and other school personnel in meeting the educational needs of children; (3) to develop and strengthen the relationship between parents and their children's school; (4) to further the developmental progress of children assisted under the program; (5) to coordinate activities funded under this program with parental involvement initiatives funded under section 1118 and other provisions of the

ESEA; and (6) to provide a comprehensive approach to improving student learning, through coordination and integration of Federal, State, and local services and programs. Services funded under the Parental Information and Resource Centers Program should reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practices.

In this notice, the Secretary proposes a competitive preference for the FY 2002 grant competition, the selection criteria that the Department would use in making grant awards, and eligibility requirements for grant applicants.

DATES: We must receive your comments on the proposed priority, selection criteria, and eligibility requirements [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Address all comments about this proposed priority to Daisy Greenfield, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3E307, Washington, DC 20202-6410, Telephone: (202) 401-0039, FAX: (202) 205-0303. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following address: [daisy.greenfield@ed.gov](mailto:daisy.greenfield@ed.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daisy Greenfield, (202) 401-0039. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Invitation To Comment: Interested persons are invited to submit comments and recommendations regarding the proposed priority, selection criteria and eligibility requirements. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection, during and after the comment period, in Room 3E307, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

Assistance to Individual With Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record: On request, the Department supplies an appropriate aid, such as a reader or print magnifier, to an individual with a disability that needs assistance to review the comments. If you want to schedule an appointment for this type of aid, you may call (202) 205-8113 or (202) 260-9895. If you use a TDD, you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

General: The Parent Information and Resource Centers funded under Subpart 16 of Title V of the reauthorized ESEA must be school-based or school-linked centers that provide comprehensive training, information, and support to (1) parents of children enrolled in elementary and secondary schools; (2) individuals who work with the parents of children enrolled in elementary and secondary schools; (3) State educational agencies (SEAs), LEAs, schools, organizations that support family-school partnerships (such parent-teacher associations and Parents as Teachers organizations), and other organizations that carry out parent education and family involvement programs; and (4) parents of children from birth through age five. Each PIRC must serve both urban and rural areas and use at least 50 percent of the each year's award to serve areas with high concentrations of low-

income families in order to assist parents who are severely educationally or economically disadvantaged.

Compared to the predecessor legislation in Title IV of the Goals 2000: Educate America Act, the PIRC legislation in the reauthorized ESEA places a much greater emphasis on supporting activities that assist parents in participating effectively in their children's education so that their children will meet State and local academic standards. PIRCs must now, among other things, provide assistance to parents in such areas as understanding State and local standards and measures of student and school academic achievement and work with SEAs and LEAs to determine parental needs and the best means for delivery of services. They must also coordinate their activities with Federal, State, and local services and programs that support student learning. In addition, PIRCs must use at least 30 percent of their funds each year to establish, expand, or operate early childhood parent education programs, such as Parents as Teachers programs or Home Instruction for Preschool Youngsters programs. PIRCs are required to support one or more of the specific activities described in Section 5564(a) of the ESEA and may also assist schools with activities under Section 5564(b).

The new PIRC legislation, like the predecessor statute, requires the Secretary, to the extent practicable, to ensure that grants are distributed in all geographic regions of the United States. Currently, there is a parent center funded under Title IV of Goals 2000 in each State, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and each of the outlying areas. The PIRC legislation directs the Secretary to continue to fund multi-year grant awards under Title IV of Goals 2000 for the remainder of their project period. PIRCs in twenty-eight States have one year left in their project period and thus will receive a

continuation award from the FY 2002 PIRC funds made available under the reauthorized ESEA.

PIRCs in the following States are in the last year of their project period and therefore will not receive continuation funding: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, Delaware, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Rhode Island, South Carolina, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

In order to meet the Congressional intent of ensuring that grants are distributed, to the extent practicable, to all geographic regions of the United States, the Secretary proposes to give a competitive preference of 10 additional points to the highest-scoring applicant from each of the above-referenced States in which the current PIRC projects are ending. In other words, only one applicant from each of these States – the applicant that receives the highest score on the basis of the selection criteria for the competition – would receive the 10-point preference. No applicant from the other States would receive a competitive preference because those States have PIRCs whose projects will continue with an additional year of funding. The competitive preference would help ensure that high-quality applicants from all regions of the country are funded. At this same time, this selection process would permit the Department to fund applications of exceptional quality from any State, including more than one PIRC in a given jurisdiction if this were warranted.

The Secretary is also proposing specific selection criteria for the FY 2002 competition to help ensure that the applicants that receive funding are those that propose activities that best address the statutory purposes and requirements, that can effectively implement those activities, and that would likely be successful in improving student and school academic achievement.

Finally, both the predecessor and current PIRC legislation require that grants be made to nonprofit organizations, or to consortia of nonprofit organizations and local educational agencies. The organization or consortium must, among other things, be governed by a board of directors whose membership includes parents, or be an entity that represents the interests of parents. Under the Department's interpretation of the predecessor legislation, the term "nonprofit organization" for purposes of the PIRC program did not include institutions of higher education, State educational agencies, local educational agencies, intermediate school districts, schools, government entities, or hospitals. The Department believes that this is also the proper interpretation of the term "nonprofit organization" under the new legislation and proposes to apply that interpretation to the PIRC program under Title V of the ESEA.

On the basis of the responses to this notice and other considerations of the Department, the Secretary will announce the final priority for the FY 2002 competition, the selection criteria, and eligibility requirements in a notice in the Federal Register.

NOTE: This notice does not solicit applications. A notice inviting applications under the competition will be published in the Federal Register concurrent with or following the notice of final priorities, selection criteria, and eligibility requirements.



PROPOSED COMPETITIVE PREFERENCE: The Secretary proposes to give a competitive preference in the FY 2002 competition under the Parental Information and Resource Center Program. To receive this preference, an applicant must –

(1) Be from one of the following States in which the current PIRC grantees will not receive a FY 2002 continuation award: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, Delaware, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Rhode Island, South Carolina, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming; and

(2) Be the highest-scoring applicant from its State on the basis of the selection criteria for the competition.

An applicant that meets the competitive preference would receive 10 points in the competition. These points are in addition to any points the applicant earns under the selection criteria.

PROPOSED SELECTION CRITERIA: The Secretary proposes that the Department use the following selection criteria to evaluate applications under the PIRC competition. The maximum points for each criterion is indicated in parentheses after the heading for that criterion.

(1) Need for the project (20)

(a) The Secretary considers the need for the proposed project.

(b) In considering the need for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the proposed project will provide services to or otherwise address the needs of parents who are educationally or economically disadvantaged.

(ii) The extent to which the training, information, and support services that are currently available address inadequately the needs of the parents whom the proposed project will target for assistance.

(iii) The extent to which the children of the parents whom the proposed project will serve are not meeting State or local academic achievement standards.

(2) Quality of the design of the proposed PIRC (25)

(a) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed PIRC.

(b) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed PIRC, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the proposed PIRC will be a school-based or school-linked center that is of adequate size, scope, and quality to serve effectively the parents in the area.

(ii) The extent to which the proposed PIRC is designed to work in coordination with the State educational agency and affected local educational agencies in determining the needs of the parents who will be targeted for assistance and in developing an effective means for providing services to those parents.

(iii) The extent to which the proposed PIRC is designed to coordinate and integrate activities funded under this grant with parental involvement activities funded from other sources, particularly Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

(iv) The extent to which the proposed PIRC will support effective early childhood parent education programs that coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with school-age programs.

(v) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to include multiple strategies for providing direct and indirect services for parents targeted for assistance.

(vi) The extent to which the proposed PIRC will implement a management plan that includes clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for achieving the objectives of the project.

(3) Quality of the PIRC services (20)

(a) The Secretary considers the quality of the PIRC services.

(b) In determining the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed PIRC, the Secretary considers the quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have been traditionally underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(c) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the proposed PIRC will provide comprehensive training, information, and support services in order to develop and strengthen the relationship between parents and their children's school.

(ii) The extent to which the proposed PIRC will assist parents in understanding the student academic achievement standards to which their children are being held and the measures of student and school academic achievement.

(iii) The extent to which the proposed PIRC will assist parents in becoming involved in their children's education in meaningful ways that are likely to improve student academic achievement.

(iv) The extent to which the proposed PIRC will provide services that reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practices.

(v) The extent to which the proposed PIRC will provide services to parents that will likely improve the developmental progress of children, including children from birth through age five.

(4) Quality of the PIRC personnel (10)

(a) The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the PIRC activities.

(b) In determining the quality of the PIRC personnel, the Secretary considers the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have been traditionally underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(c) In addition, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the PIRC director.

(ii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key PIRC personnel.

(iii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of PIRC consultants or subcontractors.

(5) Evaluation (25)

(a) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.

(b) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.

(ii) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will result in data on whether the policies and practices of the PIRC are effective in improving home-school communication, student academic achievement, school academic achievement, and parental involvement in school planning, review, and improvement.

PROPOSED ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

The Secretary proposes that organizations seeking funding under the PIRC Program, either individually or in consortia with one or more LEAs, be required to demonstrate that they are nonprofit organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Furthermore, the Secretary proposes that for purposes of the PIRC program, the term “nonprofit organization” would not include institutions of higher education, State educational agencies, local educational agencies, intermediate school districts, schools, government entities, or hospitals.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This document contains information collection requirements. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507(d)), the Department of Education has submitted a copy of this document to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for its review.

If you want to comment on the information collection requirements, please send your comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; Attention: Karen Lee, Desk Officer for the U.S. Department of Education. You may also send a copy of these comments to the Department representative listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection of information in this document between 30 and 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. Therefore, to ensure that OMB gives your comments full consideration, it is important that OMB receives the comments within 30 days of publication.

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<http://www.ed.gov/news.html>

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Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the Federal Register. Free Internet access to the official edition of the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Domestic Regulations is available on GPO Access at:

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>

PROGRAM AUTHORITY: Subpart 16 of Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110)

Dated:

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Susan B. Neuman,  
Assistant Secretary for  
Elementary and Secondary Education